GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:782
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
GANGA ACTION PLAN
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ganga Action Plan is running far behind the completion schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the date on which this plan was implemented alongwith its main aims and objectives thereof;

(d) whether targets fixed under the plan has been achieved within the stipulated time;

(e) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the total funds allocated for the plan alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon, State/Union Territory-wise; (g) whether several discrepancies have been pointed out by CAG for poor implementation of the said plan;(h) if so, the details thereof; and (i) the concrete steps taken to complete the plan speedily alongwith its time of completion?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (f) The Ganga Action Plan Phase I was launched in 1985 with the objective of preventing the pollution of river Ganga and to improve its water quality. The Plan was declared closed on 31.3.2000. Against a targeted capacity of 873 million litres per day planned for treatment of wastewater, a capacity to treat 835 million litres per day has been created. The implementation of the programme was delayed due to encroachments, delay in land acquisition, litigation and contractual problems. The Ganga Action Plan Phase II, that covers Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar was approved in phases between 1993 and 1996 and is under implementation. Under this Plan, against a target capacity of 1861 million litres per day for treatment of wastewater, a capacity to treat 634 million litres per day has been created so far. The total funds allocated for these plans alongwith the funds released by the Government of India State-wise are at Annexure.

(g)&(h) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report on Ganga Action Plan for the year ended March, 2000 has mentioned that Ganga Action Plan has not been able to achieve its objectives despite a total expenditure of Rs.901.71 crore over a period of 15 years.

(j) The achievement of the objective of Ganga Action Plan Phase-II will be possible only after all the works taken up under the programme are completed by December, 2005.